



# Truman VA BULLETIN

May 2, 2008

## Welcome

**David Bach**, Respiratory Therapist (SC)  
**Leslie Berry**, Medical Support Assistant (PC)  
**Jeffrey Kieholtz**, Medical Supply Technician (PS)  
**Tiffany Smith**, Nursing Assistant (PS)  
**Carla Springer, RN** (PS)  
**Jennifer Vandeloecht, RN** (PS)

## Farewell

**Caitlin Arner**, Student Nurse Technician (PS)  
**Kathryn Gallagher**, Medical Support Assistant (PC)

## May Service Pin Recipients

40-Years

**James L. Broadus**, Visual Information Specialist (ADIR)

35-Years

**Thomas P. Dresser, MD**, Director, Clinical Support SL (CS)

25-Years

**Linda J. Brown**, Program Support Clerk (BUS)

**Kelly R. Jobe, RN**, Staff Nurse (PC)

**Reng K. Winters**, Nurse Practitioner (PC)

20-Years

**Richard L. Hudson**, Electrical Worker (FM)

15-Years

**Rasheedah L. King**, Patient Services Assistant (PC)

**James J. O'Rourke**, Program Support Assistant (BUS)

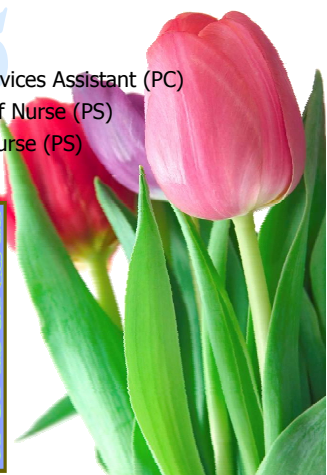
5-Years

**Jason E. Essig, LPN** (PS)

**Cathryn M. Leake**, Patient Services Assistant (PC)

**Jeanine R. Minsky, RN**, Staff Nurse (PS)

**Tracy S. Vought, RN**, Staff Nurse (PS)



## New Chief, Health Admin.

**Nita Robinson** has been selected as Chief, Health Administration Service at Truman VA. Her VA career began at this VA medical center in November 1986. Since that time, Nita has held several positions including Manager, Health Administration in the Business Operations Service Line; Administrative Officer of the Day; Supervisor of Support Services and Chief, Ward Administration in the former Medical Administration Service. For several years she has served as hospital coordinator of special programs such as Former Prisoners of War and Environmental Agent Exposure. As part of the global phase initiative to contact Operation Enduring Freedom/Operation Iraqi Freedom (OEF/OIF) veterans, Nita acts as a communication link between combat veterans and VA health care benefits. Born and raised in Tennessee, she earned a bachelor's degree in sociology from Hamlin University in St. Paul, Minn. in 1980. Nita attended Stephens College and received a certificate in health information management in 1997. She holds the Registered Health Information Administrator credential and is a member of the American Health Information Management Association and the Mid-Missouri Health Information Management Association. Nita is a veteran of the U.S. Air Force. She and her husband have raised two children and have three grandchildren. Congratulations, Nita!

## Truman VA Volunteers Honored

On April 25, 128 community volunteers that served 100 hours or more during 2007 were honored at Truman VA's 35<sup>th</sup> annual volunteer recognition awards ceremony. The event took place at the Peachtree Banquet Center. **Nathan Witt** manages the local VA volunteer program, which includes 505 regularly scheduled volunteers that provided more than 51,500 hours of service to veterans receiving clinical care at Truman VA and its five community based outpatient clinics last year. The nationwide VA program is the largest volunteer program in the federal government. VA volunteers have donated more than 689 million hours of service since the program began in 1946. More than 85,000 VA volunteers contributed more than 11.6 million hours – equal to 5,574 full-time employees worth \$218 million – in 2007.

### VA RESEARCH WEEK, MAY 11-17

National VA Research Week is scheduled May 11-17. For more than 60 years, the VA Research and Development program has improved lives of veterans through innovation and discovery that has led to advances in health care for veterans and all Americans. The VA Research program, unique in that it is the only research program focused wholly on conducting groundbreaking research to meet the full spectrum of veterans' medical needs, is advantageously part of the VA's integrated health care system. VA Research (1) has become an acclaimed model for conducting superior bench-to-bedside research; (2) is positioned to attract the best and brightest investigators, many of who also work as VA clinicians; and (3) is able to promote the quick translation of research findings into advancements in care and medical decision-making based on patient-centered evidence. While realizing the advantages of our close affiliations with academic institutions, the VA Research and Development program fosters dynamic collaborations with those educational affiliates, other federal agencies, private industry and others.

To learn more about Truman VA's outstanding Research program, plan on attending a special Research Week program on Friday, May 16 at 12:00 noon in the auditorium. Watch for additional announcements and information.

### NON-TAX FILERS CAN STILL FILE FOR 2008 STIMULUS PAYMENTS

Even though April 15 has passed, the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) reminds retirees, disabled veterans and others that normally do not file a tax return that there is still time to submit a 2007 form to receive an economic stimulus payment. People not otherwise required to file an income tax return that have at least \$3,000 in qualifying income should file a simple Form 1040A with basic information to ensure that they receive the economic stimulus payment. Qualifying income includes any combination of earned income, nontaxable combat pay as well as certain payments from Social Security, VA and Railroad Retirement. VA benefits that are considered qualifying income include disability compensation, disability pension and survivor payments. The deadline for filing is Oct. 15.

The Economic Stimulus Act of 2008 provides a minimum payment of \$300 (\$600 for married couples) plus a \$300 payment per eligible child if an individual has at least \$3,000 in qualifying income. For taxpayers required to file an income tax return, the IRS will use the 2007 tax return to determine eligibility for stimulus payments of up to \$600 (\$1,200 for married couples) plus the additional \$300 for each child younger than 17. There are IRS Taxpayer Assistance Centers open during the

week to provide assistance. To find an IRS office near you, go to [IRS.gov](http://IRS.gov) and click on "Contact IRS," then on "Contact Your Local IRS Office."

### U.S. POSTAL SERVICE PRICES CHANGE MAY 12

On May 12, the U.S. Postal Service will adjust prices for shipping and mailing services. Pricing highlights for select shipping services include:

- \$ Express Mail switches to a zone-based pricing system, resulting in customers paying less for nearby destinations.
- \$ Priority Mail will have an average 3.5 percent savings for customers that use electronic postage.

Pricing highlights for select mailing services include:

- \$ First class mail letter (1 oz.) \$0.42
- \$ First class mail letter (2 oz.) \$0.59
- \$ Postcard \$0.27
- \$ Certified mail \$2.70.

### OFFICE OF INFORMATION AND TECHNOLOGY (OI&T) CORNER

The announcements section of the Track-It! Homepage is used to share information about OI&T personnel who are not available to assist you. This information may indicate absence during a specific portion of the day, all day or planned future absences. If you have been trying to reach someone in OI&T without success, check Track-It! Announcements. That staff member may not be on duty.

### SPECIAL RECOGNITION EVENTS

- \* May is *Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month*. This year's theme is "Leadership, Diversity, Harmony – Gateway to Success."
- \* The 24<sup>th</sup> annual *Public Service Recognition Week* is May 4-11. This event pays tribute to our country's many public servants and publicizes their contributions at every level of government – federal, state and local.

### BIRTHDAY ANNIVERSARY

Harry S Truman, the 33<sup>rd</sup> President of the United States, was born May 8, 1884. A January 1975 public law named this hospital after him.

